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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 21 February 2001 from the Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I have the honour to refer to the attached note verbale of 21 February 2001 sent by the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations (see annex) and request that you, in your capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Committee.

(*Signed*) Robert C. **Moller**
Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs

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Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2001 from the Minister-Counsellor for Host Country Affairs of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and, in reference to the latter's note of 6 February 2001, wishes to once again clarify apparent misunderstandings on the part of the Permanent Mission regarding the application of travel restrictions.

Representatives of States Members of the United Nations are provided entry into the United States of America for the purpose of conducting United Nations business. Current restrictions do not impede access to the Headquarters district for the purpose of conducting United Nations business. The United States, however, has no obligation to permit unrestricted travel outside the United Nations Headquarters district for personal reasons or for travel not related to the work of the sending State at the United Nations.

Travel by the Deputy Permanent Representative to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in order to give a lecture at Lehigh University in no way constitutes official United Nations business or the work of the Government of Cuba at the United Nations. Since the request did not involve travel for official United Nations business, the host country had no obligation to approve it.

The United States is cognizant of the paragraph in successive United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country asking that the United States consider removing travel restrictions. The host country indeed reviews the travel restriction programme on a periodic basis and recently removed those restrictions which applied to another Member State. The United States looks forward to the time when national security concerns are abated and such restrictions on personal travel of members of other Permanent Missions will no longer be necessary.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.